

SECRET

JOURNAL

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Wednesday - 8 December 1971

1. (Secret - JMM) Talked to Ed Braswell, Chief Counsel, Senate Armed Services Committee, and told him of the conversation the Director and Colonel White had with Senator Ellender yesterday regarding the handling of the Agency budget. (See Colonel White's Memo for Record.)

Mr. Braswell told me of some action Senator Stennis had taken in connection with a matter Braswell and I had been discussing recently. (See Memo for Record.)

Mr. Braswell said Senator Stennis wanted a briefing on Soviet naval power. He explained the Senator was skeptical of briefings he had been receiving from the U.S. Navy and wanted to get some idea of relative Soviet and U.S. navy capabilities. Braswell said the Senator realized we were not qualified to brief him on the U.S. side of the picture, but he wanted information on the basis of which to judge "the purpose of the Soviet navy" and "what part of the oceans they can control."

2. (Unclassified - JMM) Pat Holt, Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff, called asking that I drop by in the next day or two.

3. (Confidential - JMM) Joseph Wolf, State Department, called to say Senator Stuart Symington was sending letters to State, Defense, NSA and CIA requesting briefings for Messrs. Moose and Lowenstein preparatory to a survey trip to Thailand and possibly Cambodia. Wolf indicated State would probably do the briefing on the basis of contributions from the other agencies, and would like to have participating agencies send representatives to a meeting with him on Tuesday, 14 December to discuss the matter. Although Lowenstein had told Wolf that "they had no ax to grind," Wolf has the impression they will be especially interested in "expansion of the war outside Vietnam" and post-war prospects in Vietnam and Thailand, and, of course, whether restrictions and prohibitions imposed by recent legislation are being observed. I said I would let him know who would participate in the meeting on Tuesday--probably [redacted] Chief, FE Division.

25X1A

SECRET

Journal - Office of Legislative Counsel
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Page 2

4. (Confidential - LLM) Returned the call of Mr. Wymberly Coerr, State Department, who had informally requested our comments on State's proposed reply to Chairman Fulbright, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, on S. Res. 192, establishing a select committee to be kept fully and currently informed on all activities of U.S. Government agencies and departments abroad acting under the authority of the ambassador. I explained our view that the reporting requirements constitute a serious derogation of Presidential power and would place agencies in the untenable position of reporting to a committee of Congress, activities based upon the most privileged, sensitive, and personal communication and instruction from the President of the United States to his personal representative in a foreign country. Mr. Coerr said he would consider our comments and be back in touch and agreed in essence that State would be reporting to Fulbright its views rather than those of the entire Executive Branch as requested by Fulbright.

25X1A 5. (Confidential - JMM) In the absence of Representative Paul G. Rogers (D., Fla.), I called his assistant, Robert Maher, and explained that we had followed up on questions which Mr. Rogers raised with us late last summer in connection with the drug traffic in Southeast Asia and I would be glad to come over and provide Mr. Rogers with the results. However I said I could give Maher the highlights over the phone (I then passed on information provided by [redacted] Maher said he would pass this on to Mr. Rogers and if he wanted more detail Maher would let me know.

6. (Internal Use Only - JGO) Received a call from Miss Meyer, secretary to Jim Lowenstein, Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff, who told me that a letter had just been mailed to the Director concerning a trip to the Far East by Mr. Lowenstein and Mr. Moose and that a copy of the letter was available for me in their office. I thanked her for the call. Moose and Lowenstein will be travelling to Thailand, and possibly Cambodia, during the period 9 January to 2 February to update information obtained in the course of Subcommittee hearings two years ago on U.S. activities in Thailand.

CONFIDENTIAL

Excerpt from GACarver, Jr. Log of 7 December 1971

1400-1530 -- Session in my office with three staff members of Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff: Mr. Robert Biles, Mr. Robert Bloom and Mr. Ann Hollick. Biles, apparently the senior, handed me a list of NIE's and SNIE's prepared on 23 November by the staff. In effect he was refloating the same request that Fulbright floated in his 21 September memorandum to the Director which we turned off. I explained politely but firmly that National Intelligence Estimates and Special National Intelligence Estimates were Executive Branch documents that simply could not be passed outside the Executive Branch. They were not Agency documents per se, but constituted products of the DCI in his corporate capacity which went to the President. Hence, any declassification or wider circulation of them would have to be approved by the White House and not by any element of the Agency staff. They had never been passed outside the Executive Branch and I doubted if anyone would want to set precedence on this matter that could be cited in the future. We then had a long discussion about ways in which we might be helpful to the three staffers who had been commissioned by the Committee and its senior staff to use the Pentagon Papers as their starting point and prepare a detailed study on the war as called for in Senate Resolution 140 passed on July 4, 1971. The meeting seemed to be quite pleasant even though the three staffers did not get what they wanted. All of them are probably on the dovish side of the fence but they were on their best behavior and were certainly not argumentative or contentious in this session. At my suggestion, they will provide a list of specific items and questions keyed to various time frames on which they will ask to know what intelligence was available to the U.S. Government on the topic at the time in question. I told them that we would do our best to be as helpful as we could but made no iron-clad promises with respect to performance. In a post-session caucus with Maury he indicated that the meeting had gone as well as could have been expected.